Influx of Hindus from Bangladesh into India

2548. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the approximate number of Hindus from Bangladesh who have taken refuge in India after Bangladesh was declared an Islamic State recently; and

(b) whether considering the pressure on land due to the repeated mass migration of Hindus from Bangladesh, Government have any proposal under their consideration to rehabilitate them in the Indian enclaves of Tin Bigha and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Exact figures of Hindus who have taken refuge in India after Bangladesh was declared as an Islamic State are not available. The people who enter India are unauthorised infiltrators.

(b) No, Sir. This would not be possible because India is committed to lease Tin Bigha in perpetuity to Bangladesh in pursuance of the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974.

Feling of Eucalyptus trees in the capital

2549. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ordered felling of Eucalyptus trees in the capital and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) how many trees have been felled so far and how many planted in their place; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent depletion of the remaining greenary in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) 15,604 Eucalyptus trees of more than five years of age were ordered to be felled by Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The reasons given for felling are as follows:—

(i) Ageing of trees.

(ii) Prevalence of a disease called Gummosis.

(iii) Dangerous to human life.

(iv) Affecting road widening or other construction activities.

(v) Interference with overhead high tension electric lines.

(b) About 10,000 trees have been cut down so far. Over 60 lakhs trees have been planted in the Union Territory of Delhi so far during 1988-89 *including 6.22 lakhs trees by the* Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Delhi Administration to prevent depletion of remaining greenary in the Capital ;

(i) Trees are being cut at ground level so that these may sprout again.

(ii) Efforts are being made to plant large number of trees on barren and waste lands and also in water-logged areas.

(iii) No green trees can be cut without the prior approval of Lt. Governor.

(iv) Framing of rules to regulate the cutting of trees in Delhi is under consideration of Delhi Administration.

(v) A *standing committee* has been constituted by the Delhi Administration to advice the Lt. Governor on all matters relating to felling of trees.